

Fresno General Plan Rapid Fire Scenarios

Scenarios and Co-benefits Analysis for GP Alternatives

Rev. 16 March 2012

This memo accompanies the delivery of RapidFire scenario analysis of the City of Fresno's General Plan alternatives. Calthorpe Associates is pleased to have performed this analysis for the City free of charge in order to inform decision making and public discussions about the relative impacts of the General Plan alternatives. We believe that Fresno is a critical player in Valley land use dynamics and that a more informed GP process serves Fresno, other cities, and the region in helping to contextualize the fiscal, environmental, and public health impacts of land use policy choices.

In order to produce the General Plan analysis, we translated each General Plan alternative into the RapidFire modeling framework and worked with City staff to ensure that model assumptions were appropriate for the analysis. The RapidFire model, which has been deployed statewide in the Vision California project, and at the regional and county scales in the San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California, Honolulu, and other regions, is used to quickly and efficiently develop scenarios that express the impacts of varying growth and infrastructure patterns on a variety of critical sustainability indicators, including:

- Land consumption
- Infrastructure cost (including capital and operations & maintenance (O&M))
- City/jurisdictional revenues
- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and fuel consumption
- Transportation GHG and air pollutant emissions
- Building energy and water consumption and related GHG emissions
- Household costs for transportation and utilities
- Public health (air pollution-related) impacts and costs

The analysis of the Fresno General Plan alternatives highlights the role land use can play in meeting Fresno's fiscal, environmental and public health goals. When comparing GP Alternative A (increased infill and focused growth) to Alternative C (trend growth, less infill, expansion of the SOI), Alternative A illustrates that a more focused land use pattern:

- Saves nearly 10 square miles of land from development.
- Reduces passenger vehicle travel the equivalent of taking 40,000 cars off of Fresno roads for a year.
- Reduces gasoline use by 14.4 million gallons in 2035.
- Saves households an average of \$1,240 a year from reduced auto fuel and utility bills.
- Reduces energy use enough to power over 9,000 homes.
- Saves enough water to serve 7,500 homes.
- Reduces capital and O&M costs for infrastructure by \$162 million to 2035.
- Saves \$13.8 million in health care costs due to reduced air-pollution related illnesses in 2035.

Note that all policies are held constant across all scenarios in order to highlight the impacts of General Plan land use variation on scenario performance. Policies for vehicle efficiency, carbon intensity of the fuel, power generation, and home energy and water efficiency and costs, are set at moderate rates that represent adopted or likely-to-be adopted policies in California and the Central Valley.

Fresno General Plan Update Scenarios - (March 2012) - DISCUSSION DRAFT

15-Mar-12

	Business as Usual (Calthorpe Backcast)	A. Revitalization, Infill, and Transit Corridors within SOI	B. Growth Area Development and Infill within SOI	C. Trend, Expands to SOI	D. Hybrid of A, B, and C
New growth housing unit mix	BAU	A	B	C	D
Single Family Large Lot	70%	15%	16%	31%	24%
Single Family Small Lot	10%	24%	23%	21%	22%
Townhome	7%	20%	19%	15%	17%
Multifamily	12%	41%	42%	33%	38%
New growth housing units					
Single Family Large Lot	55,555	11,845	12,898	24,354	18,910
Single Family Small Lot	7,863	18,650	18,488	16,469	17,104
Townhome	5,860	15,924	14,650	11,892	13,302
Multifamily	9,722	32,581	32,965	26,286	29,685

